

Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Quote Sheet

“These funds are the cornerstone of state-based efforts that are critical to the preservation of America’s wildlife and natural resources,” said **Service Director Dan Ashe**. “But they are also the fuel for a massive financial engine that benefits outdoor recreationists, hunters, boaters and anglers, equipment manufacturers and retailers, and local and regional economies. Their value cannot be overstated in providing opportunities for the next generation of Americans to get outdoors, experience our wild places and learn the importance of conserving our natural heritage.”

“The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program provides critical funding for conservation projects and outdoor recreation activities across this great nation,” said **Assistant Director Hannibal Bolton of the Service’s WSFR program**. “I can’t stress enough that the key to the program’s success is through our dedicated partnerships with State agencies, non-government organizations and many others.”

“It is thanks to this significant financial investment made by America’s sportsmen and women and the hunting, shooting sports, angling and boating industries that state and territorial fish and wildlife agencies can deliver science-based conservation on the ground,” said **Larry Voyles, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies President and Arizona Game and Fish Department Director**. “The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program has made the difference between the survival and abundance of some species and it helps agencies, like mine, manage a vast estate of lands and waters and connect more people to wildlife-related recreation.”

“The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announcement of the funding for programs under the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund (SFRBTF) is the fulfillment of a promise to boaters that their tax dollars are put back into programs that help them get the most out of boating. From new transient boating docks in Owensboro, Kentucky and vessel pumpout facilities in Florida to breakwater repairs in Port Townsend, Washington, recreational boaters, sailors and anglers see the value of this ‘user pay-public benefits’ program every day. We look forward to the reauthorization of SFRBTF and helping it continue as the cornerstone of boating infrastructure, safety and aquatic conservations programs nationwide.” - **Margaret B. Podlich, President, BoatU.S.**

Thom Dammrich, President of the National Marine Manufacturers Association says, “NMMA is thrilled to see the continued allocation of resources to support important projects vital to both state and national recreational fishing and boating programs. We know that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service understands, just as we do, the significance of support for programs ranging from recreational boating safety, fisheries management, habitat conservation, boating access and education, to name just a few of the platforms that this funding upholds.”

“The manufacturers of bows, arrows and other taxable archery equipment are proud to be a part of this unique American funding mechanism,” said **Jay McAninch, ATA**

President and CEO. "In addition to supporting state wildlife agencies and ensuring healthy wildlife populations and productive habitats, these excise tax dollars are used to grow participation in archery and bowhunting. Our manufacturers support paying these taxes because the dollars are focused towards hunters and recreational shooters. This program is truly a 'user pay / public benefit' effort."

"Since 1950 the manufacturers excise tax on sportfishing equipment, combined with state fishing license sales, have been the heart and soul of fisheries conservation in the U.S." said **American Sportfishing Association (ASA) President and CEO Mike Nussman.** "This dedicated source of conservation dollars is fundamental to state fish and wildlife agencies fisheries management programs. We know that anglers give far more to the environment than we ever take from it. But we can't take for granted that a society with less and less exposure to the outdoors in everyday life will understand that, or continue to, unless we make it a point to include that message in everything we say about recreational fishing."